

Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)

May 19, 2016 Meeting

MINUTES

**LOCATION: Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Board Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95833**

IN ATTENDANCE:

COMIO Council Members

- Scott Kernan, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Jessica Cruz, NAMI California, Executive Director, The National Alliance on Mental Illness – California
- Mark Garbau, Ph.D., Chief Psychologist Forensic Services Division, California Department of State Hospitals (DHS) (representing DHS Director Pamela Ahlin)
- Brenda Grealish, Chief, Mental Health Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) (representing DHCS Director Toby Douglas)
- Mack Jenkins, Retired Chief Probation Officer, San Diego County
- David Meyer, J.D., Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California
- The Honorable Stephen V. Manley, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge

CDCR Staff

- Norine Occhipinti, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Office of the Secretary
- Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, COMIO

Guest Speakers

- Jennifer Skeem, PhD, University of California at Berkeley School of Social Welfare and Goldman School of Public Policy
- Hallie Fader-Towe, Program Director – Courts, and Deanna Adams, Senior Reentry Fellow, The Council of State Governments Justice Center

Welcome and Introductions

Special Guest: Jennifer Skeem, PhD, University of California at Berkeley School of Social Welfare and Goldman School of Public Policy: Best Practices and Policy Implications for Addressing the Criminogenic Needs of Justice-Involved Persons with Mental Illness in Community and Institutional Settings.

Dr. Jennifer Skeem provided an overview of her research on what works for justice-involved people with mental illness. Skeem investigates the implicit model we have of “what works” – sentence to treatment or a special program, control psychiatric symptoms, and then see reduced recidivism. Yet there are some problems with this model according to the data and research. Symptoms rarely cause crime and psychiatric services rarely reduce crime.

Skeem emphasizes the importance of taking a broader look at offenders who face mental health and/or substance use challenges in order to successfully provide treatment and reduce recidivism. Using risk assessments to test for various risk factors (much more than just mental health and/or substance use challenges) for recidivism has proven to produce much more accurate predictions and plans for this population. Therefore, targeting risk factors, targeting criminogenic needs, and implementing cognitive behavioral programs for criminal offenders demonstrate the best outcomes. Having justice system employees establish a dual role - a balanced combination of control and care rather than authoritarian and punitive roles with offenders, especially those facing mental health and/or substance use challenges, can also have a positive impact based on Skeem's research. Specialty supervision as opposed to traditional supervision has proven cost-effective when examining total mental health and criminal justice costs.

This presentation was video-recorded and will be made into an instructional video that will be posted on the COMIO website.

Skeem also encouraged COMIO that it would be most useful to focus efforts on addressing stigma-based decision-making such as supporting peer to peer contact (hope), providing education and opportunities to see people with mental illness in recovery in the community for criminal justice partners such as the courts, parole, probation, etc., and support access to rehabilitation (education and cognitively behavioral programs addressing criminogenic needs) to individuals with serious mental illness in custody.

Public Comment

Action Item

Adopted Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2016

Special Guest: Hallie Fader-Towe, Program Director – Courts, and Deanna Adams, Senior Reentry Fellow, The Council of State Governments Justice Center: Update on the Stepping Up Initiative and discussion on how COMIO can collaborate and support efforts.

Stepping Up was launched in Sacramento May of 2015. Since the launch, 19 counties have passed resolutions, 4 counties attended the National Stepping Up Summit, and 58 counties participated in a survey of practices.

Question 1: Is the number of people with mental illnesses who are involved with the criminal justice system a significant issue in your county?

- 51 counties reported "Yes"
- 2 counties reported "No"
- 5 counties had different responses from different respondents

Question 2: What is your impression of the number of people with mental illnesses in your county's jails over the past five years?

- 100% of responding Sheriffs said "it has gotten bigger".
- 42 counties – It has gotten bigger
- 13 counties – Different responses (grown/same)
- 2 counties – It is about the same
- 1 county – It has gotten smaller

Next Steps:

- Additional analyses of the Perception of Current Practices
- Possible Stepping Up California Summit
- Develop better resource and support for counties by working with California partners to understand what sort of help is needed

Action Item: Motion to reaffirm COMIO's previous support, encouragement, and dissemination of Stepping Up's information for county participation.

Public Comment – Supports motion **Motion Approved**

Update on Governors State Budget and May Revise – Ms. Welch provided highlights of the Governors May Revise in the following areas of interest to COMIO; Poverty, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Department of State Hospitals, Housing, Public Safety, and COMIO's proposal to add 2 position – an analyst and a research scientist that will be studying health care service utilization among offenders released from CDCR who have identified behavioral health needs.

COMIO Committee Reports

Diversion – The Honorable Stephen V. Manley gave an overview of Brian Hansen's, Health Program Specialist II, Department of Health Care Services presentation: Whole Person Care Pilots and Individuals with Mental Illness that are Justice-Involved

Training – Ms. Welch provided information on the guest speakers for the next Training Committee meeting in June.

- Stacy Lopez, Associate Director, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Peace Officer Selection and Employee Development: Overview of CDCR training relevant to COMIO and discussion of lessons learned and future directions
- Karen Moreno, Associate Director, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Office of Employee Health and Wellness: Overview of CDCR employee wellness efforts for sworn officers, discussion of lessons learned, and future directions

Juvenile Justice – Mack Jenkins provided information on upcoming presentations.

- Anticipates a presentation from the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to providing a highlight of their innovative program to respond to the changed needs of the population currently in DJJ custody.
- Also, anticipates a presentation from the Chief Probations Officers Association with the latest on the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) program.

Executive Officer's Report – Ms. Welch shared additional information about the July 20th and July 21st site visit to the Los Angeles Office of Diversion and Reentry. At this site visit, COMIO will honor Los Angeles (LA) County's architects of the Blueprint for Change, with a COMIO Best Practices Award.

Public Comment

Recommendation was made for COMIO to post a 5 min and 25 minute version of what COMIO is so that public members can use it as an introduction of COMIO when talking to other organizations.

Adjourn